REMARKS

Claims 1 through 20 are pending in the subject application. Applicant notes with appreciation that claim 11 is indicated to be allowable. Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 13, 16, 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being obvious over Bates in view of Hirose. Claims 3, 5, 12, 15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bates in view of Hirose and Fitzpatrick. Claims 4, 10, 14 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bates in view of Hirose and Smith. Applicant respectively requests reconsideration of the above-referenced application in light of the amendments above and remarks below.

Turning to the specific rejections, claims 1, 2, 6-9, 13, 16, 17 and 20 are rejected in the Office action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bates in view of Hirose. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Office Action considers Bates to teach a pointing device with a display unit for displaying a plurality of icons. Bates is considered to include a detection unit detecting a predetermined operation performed on a first icon which has been dragged to a second icon, the first icon being displayed on the display unit and moved with the movement of the pointing device. However, as admitted in the Office Action, Bates does not teach a condition update unit as claimed. Hirose is cited as teaching an information processing apparatus wherein a condition update unit changes the processing condition of the information processing, represented by the second iconic menu, to be performed on the first icon based on its detection of the operation performed on the first icon. This is not the invention as claimed.

Applicant's invention as now more particularly defined provides a condition update unit which changes the processing condition to be performed by said second processing condition based on detection of the operation performed on the first icon at the second icon. This is a clear departure from the prior art. Bates, as previously discussed, discloses no mechanism for changing a processing condition in response to detection of icon movement. Though the referenced portion of Hirose relied upon in the Office Action teaches changing the clock to a shredder in response to motion of the object icon, it is changing the clock icon in response to any motion, i.e., any dragging of the object icon. This is very different from

the claimed invention as amended which only changes the operation of the target icon in response to motion of the object icon at the target icon.

This difference results in several shortcoming to Hirose and provides several novel advantages as a result of the structure and method of the claimed invention. First, the clock changes in response to any movement of the text icon in Hirose, whether shredding is required or not. If printing is required, the clock still changes to a shredder because movement of the text would have been detected. The clear teaching in Hirose is that "in response to the start of dragging, the shredder icon and the clock icon disappear from the screen." Col. 6, lines 47-49. However, the claimed invention operates in response to movement at the target icon so that the target icon does not change to a desired secondary icon until the user (the person dragging the object icon) has determined which function it wants. This can be determined by the direction of motion or type of motion of the first icon at the second icon. Not only does this prevent inadvertent disappearance of desired icons or changing of desired icons, but allows for a greater variety of operations to be represented at a single icon position on the screen. For example, in the claimed invention, if the target icon is a printer and the target icon could perform processing as a printer, shredder, or a change of font, then the claimed invention could utilize all three of these with a single icon merely by designating the default icon as the printer so that dragging to the printer icon and dropping causes printing of the object, shredding occurs if movement is in a vertical direction relative to the icon, and change of font occurs if movement is in the horizontal direction at the target icon. This cannot be accomplished by Hirose because Hirose changes the state of the icon immediately upon detection of dragging and therefore is limited to a single change; a change which is sometimes unwanted. Accordingly, even the combination of Hirose with Bates does not result in the claimed invention or its benefits.

Claims 2 and 6-9 depend from claim 1 and define Applicant's invention with greater particularity. Specifically, claim 2 defines the detection unit as detecting the movement of the first icon in a predetermined direction in the vicinity of the second icon during the dragging operation. This is the operation which is detected by the detection unit to change the processing condition of the second icon. What is happening in Bates is that no determination is made until the first icon is actually "dropped" on a region of the processing icon 150 to determine which of two processing conditions will be performed. What is

happening in Hirose is that any movement of the first icon causes a change in operation. Applicant's invention streamlines and expands the variety of the process by actually causing the change prior to dropping by movement at the target icon. The Office Action considers Bates to teach that detection unit detects movement of the first icon in a predetermined direction (emphasis added) in the vicinity of the second icon. However, the direction of movement is irrelevant in Bates as long as the first icon arrives in the vicinity of region 154 or 152 for dropping. There is no mention in column 7 or column 8 of the direction of movement, only that icon 114 be deselected, i.e. dropped in a region of the printer icon 150. In other words, Bates is a drop based, not dragged based technology.

Like claim 2, claim 6 depends from claim 1 and defines Applicant's invention with greater particularity. Claim 6 defines displaying the processing condition associated with the second icon in the vicinity of the second icon. Claim 7 also depends from claim 1 and defines the processing execution unit for executing the processing based on the processing condition which is either changed or unchanged by the condition update unit. Claim 8 depends from claim 1 and defines that the second icon includes a group of icons associated with the processing condition, while claim 9 depends from claim 8 and further defines that at least one of the first icon, second icon and group of icons is preliminarily associated with the processing condition. However, what is emphasized is that because claim 8 is a group of icons, at least one of the icons in the group of icons has a processing condition which is changed based on the detection of the operation performed by the first icon. Accordingly, claims 2 and 6-9 are allowable as defining patentable combinations in their own right as well as depending from allowable claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim 13 defines a method in which a processing condition to be performed on the first icon is changed based on detection of the operation performed on the first icon at the second icon. As discussed above, this is a novel feature not taught by Bates or Hirose. The claimed method provides benefits unobtainable by either Bates or Hirose. Claim 13 therefore, is allowable for reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1, and Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim 16 depends from claim 13 and, also defines that the second icon includes a group of icons associated with the processing condition, further defining a novel structure for

changing the processing conditions of the underlying second icon. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 16 is allowable as defining a patentable combination in its own right as well as depending from allowable claim 13. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim 17 is directed to a computer readable recording medium for storing a program for execution of an information processing method, the information processing method including the step of changing the processing condition of the information processing to be performed on the first icon based on the detection of the operation performed on the first icon at the second icon. Accordingly, the Applicant submits for reasons discussed above that claim 17 is allowable over the prior art and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under .35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim 20 depends from claim 17 and defines Applicant's invention with greater particularity. Specifically, claim 20 defines that the second icon includes a group of icons associated with the processing condition. Applicant submits, for reasons discussed above, that claim 20 is allowable as defining a patentable combination in its own right as well as depending from allowable claim 17 and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 3, 5, 12, 15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bates in view of Hirose and Fitzpatrick. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Office Action primarily relies upon Fitzpatrick as teaching detection of an icon that has stopped in the vicinity of another icon while the first icon is being dragged, something admitted in the Office Action not to be taught by Bates or Hirose. However, the combination of Fitzpatrick with Bates and Hirose does not overcome the deficiencies of either of the other references. Fitzpatrick does not teach changing a processing condition of the information processing to be performed on the first icon based on the results of detection of the operation, such as stopping, performed on the first icon at the second icon. Rather, Fitzpatrick requires a two-step approach in order to change the parameters (condition) of the information processing. Rather than change the processing condition in response to detection of the operation performed on the first icon, Fitzpatrick after detection of the stopped icon

gives the operator the option of changing the parameters or maintaining the default parameters. Column 4, lines 18-19 clearly teach that the default values of the drop operation **can** be overridden. (emphasize added) If it is detected in Fitzpatrick that a dragged first icon has been in the vicinity of the second "operating" icon and then dropped, a dialogue box 39 is displayed to provide a list of available parameters to allow the user to quickly edit the values of the desired parameters. See col. 4, lines 21-32, col. 6, lines 53-61.

Applicant submits that, because of opposite manners of operation, Hirose and Fitzpatrick are not combinable. Hirose is based on the concept, structure and method that the detection of the drag automatically changes the target icon. The procedure to be performed on the object is anticipated. In other words, it is assumed that if the object is enabled to be shredded in Hirose, any movement of the object icon would cause the clock to convert to a shredder. The function of Fitzpatrick is to provide a choice to the user upon movement of the object icon. There is no automatic conversion. The performance, method and teachings of the two applications are at opposite purposes. One would not look at Hirose to solve any problem associated with Fitzpatrick. Accordingly, Applicant submits that there is no teaching of a suggestion to combine. In fact, the use of Fitzpatrick overcomes any purpose for using Hirose. Therefore Applicant submits that they are not combinable.

Even if combinable, for reasons discussed above, there is nothing that teaches the claimed invention as defined in the independent claims, let alone the specific features further defined by the dependent claims 3, 5, 12, 15 and 19. Specifically, claim 3, which depends from claim 1, defines one of the detected operations as stopping for a predetermined time. Claim 5 defines that the display changes the display form of the second icon in accordance with the set processing condition. Claims 12 and 15 define that with a group of icons the display unit changes the display form of at least one of the icons of the group of icons according to the set processing condition. This is a feature not taught by Fitzpatrick, Hirose or Bates either alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 3-5, 12, and 15-19 are allowable as defining a patentable combination in its own right as well as depending from allowable claims 1 and 13 and respectfully requests a withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim 19 depends from claim 17 and further defines the invention as changing the display form of the second icon according to a set processing condition. Applicant submits

that claim 19 is allowable as defining a patentable combination in its own right as well as depending from allowable claim 17 and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 4, 10, 14 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bates in view of Hirose and Smith. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Smith is relied upon in the Office Action to teach display units in which the second icon is a group of icons associated with the processing condition when the detection unit detects the predetermined operation of the first icon, something admitted in the Office Action not to be taught by Bates or Hirose. However, Smith does not overcome the deficiencies of Bates and Hirose. It merely teaches that one single icon can represent a plurality of icons representative of a variety of operations, not that the processing condition themselves of each such operation to be performed on a first icon is to be changed by detected operation of the first icon at the second icon. Accordingly, Smith either alone or in combination with Bates does not teach the claimed invention.

Claims 4 and 10 depend from claim 1 and define Applicant's invention with greater particularity. Specifically, claim 4 defines that the display unit displays the second icon as a group of icons associated with the processing condition which is to be changed. Claim 10 indirectly depends from claim 1 and defines a combination of a plurality of processing conditions being set for each icon of the group of icons something not taught in Bates or Hirose as discussed above. Applicant submits that claims 4 and 10 are allowable as defining patentable combinations in their own right as well as depending from allowable claim 1 and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim 14 depends from claim 13 and defines Applicant's invention with greater particularity. Specifically, claim 14 also teaches the further step of displaying the second icon on the display as a group of icons associated with the processing condition when the predetermined operation is detected. As discussed above, Applicant submits that such a novel function is not taught by the prior art and Applicant respectfully submits that claim 14 is allowable as defining a patentable combination in its own right as well as depending from allowable claim 13. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim 18 depends from claim 17 and also defines that the information processing method includes the step of displaying the second icon on the display unit as a group of icons associated with the processing condition when the predetermined operation is detected. For reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that claim 18 is also allowable as defining a patentable combination in its own right as well as depending from allowable claim 17 and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the above Application in Condition for Allowance. If the Examiner is unable to issue an immediate Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney with a view toward discussing the outstanding issues.

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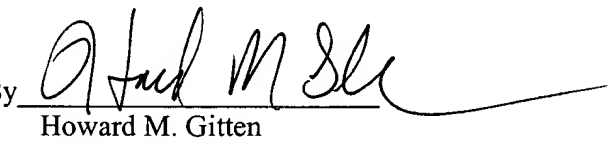
Respectfully submitted,

By 

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